

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 040583

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA, EGEN, MU

SUBJECT: CHASE MANHATTAN REQUESTED ASSIST SULTANATE

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

1. JOSEPH REED, VICE PRESIDENT AND ASSISTANT TO CHAIRMAN OF CHASE MANHATTAN BANK ADVISES THAT SULTAN QABOOS, THROUGH LEGAL ADVISOR TOM HILL, HAS PERSONALLY ASKED DAVID ROCKEFELLER FOR ASSISTANCE IN SORTING OUT CURRENT OMANI FINANCIAL SITUATION. SULTAN HAS NOT REPEAT NOT ASKED FOR CHASE LOAN. ROCKEFELLER HAS PERSONALLY INSTRUCTED BANK TO GIVE IMMEDIATE TOP-LEVEL ASSISTANCE.

2. JOHN C. PHILPOT, SENIOR CREDIT OFFICER IN CHASE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, AND DAVID SEMBAR (LEBANESE), CHASE OMAN COUNTRY OFFICER, ARE TO ARRIVE MUSCAT 3:30 A.M. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 (FROM BEIRUT). LEGAL ADVISOR HILL
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WILL ARRIVE MUSCAT AT SOME PRIOR TIME (DEPARTING NEW YORK A.M. FEBRUARY 22) AND WILL SEEK MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHASE OFFICERS.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY BRIEF CHASE OFFICERS TO EXTENT POSSIBLE ON FINANCIAL SITUATION AND ASSIST AS APPROPRIATE. IN

PARTICULAR, CHASE OFFICERS WILL DEFINITELY WISH APPOINTMENT WITH SULTAN PERSONALLY.

4. ROCKEFELLER HOLDS QABOOS IN HIGH PERSONAL ESTEEM AND WISHES BE OF MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE. INTENT IS HOWEVER NOT REPEAT NOT THAT CHASE ITSELF BECOME FINANCIALLY INVOLVED. DEPARTMENT HAS IMPRESSION THAT CHASE OFFICERS MAY NOT BE FULLY AWARE OF EFFECT OF PALACE POLITICS ON CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION. DEPARTMENT ACCORDINGLY SUGGESTS EMBASSY URGE COMPLETE FRANKNESS ON PART OF FINANCIAL ADVISOR TOWNSEND, UK AMBASSADOR, AND BRITISH BANK OF MIDDLE EAST MANAGEMENT.

5. FOR LONDON: LAMBRAKIS SHOULD INFORM FCO THAT CHASE BANK HAS BEEN INVITED BY QABOOS TO ASSIST IN HELPING OMAN GOVERNMENT SORT OUT ITS FINANCIAL SITUATION AND THAT DEPARTMENT HAS ENCOURAGED CHASE TO BE IN CONTACT WITH UK REPS IN MUSCAT. KISSINGER

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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